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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1835)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	1267594
Center	ONLINE	Date	06/08/2022

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. The withdrawal of general consent to the CBI by certain state governments in India threatens the spirit of cooperative federalism in India. Discuss.

(150 words) 10

भारत में कुछ राज्य सरकारों द्वारा सी. बी. आई. से सामान्य सहमति वापस लेना भारत में सहकारी संघवाद की भावना के लिए खतरा उत्पन्न करता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

States like West Bengal, Maharashtra and Rajasthan have withdrawn general consent. General Consent refers to the automatic approval of transfer of cases to CBI for smooth functioning.

* How this threatens Cooperative federalism:-

(i) Friction between Centre and States:- The lack of general consent would lead to friction between State and Centre over cases.

(ii) Lack of Cooperation:- It would lead to lack of cooperation for cases. This could disrupt functioning.

(iii) Litigation:- This would increase litigation in court as more and more States would go to courts under Article 131.

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(iv) Lack of procedure:- Cooperative federalism requires following of procedure and amicable solution.

* Provision to fix cooperative federalism

→ Subsidiarity :- Like European Union Commission, Only few cases where central agencies could investigate automatically.

→ Use of Inter-State Council (Article 263) :- To revive cooperation. (Also suggested by Punchhi Commission).

→ Reduction in Concurrent list subjects :- To reduce ambiguities. (Also suggested by Punchhi Commission).

→ More financial devolution

Cooperative federalism is the best method for functioning of India's democracy. Constructive steps to weed out differences should be undertaken.

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2. Stating the sources of finance for local self-governments in India, suggest ways to strengthen their financial position. **(150 words) 10**

भारत में स्थानीय स्व-शासी सरकारों के लिए वित्त के स्रोतों का उल्लेख करते हुए, उनकी वित्तीय स्थिति को मजबूत करने के उपाय सुझाइए।

According to 2nd ARC report, lack of financial resources, local self governments have remained ineffective.

* Sources of finances of local self government

- Central and State grants :- based on the implementation of schemes.
- Internal Resources :- Through taxation on 29 subjects (Article 243G).
- State aid → On recommendations of State finance Commission.
- Authorisation of taxes, duties, tolls, levies by State government to local bodies.

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* Way to Strengthen finances:-

(i) Devolving Powers:- Devolving taxation powers for all the 29 Subjects would increase their taxation base.

(ii) Capacity building:- Building capacity to collect taxes and duties is also required.

(iii) Implementing State Finance Commission recommendation:- Implementing finance commission recommendation on strengthening finances.

(iv) Flexible nature of grants:- The grants given by Central and State governments should give more discretion to PRIs to take decision.

In order to become a developed country achieve SDG goals from 1 to 16, financially sound decentralization is a pre-requisite.

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3. Cabinet Committees play an important role in reinstating collective responsibility and principle of homogeneity of the Executive in the Indian Parliamentary system. Elucidate. **(150 words) 10**

भारतीय संसदीय प्रणाली में मंत्रिमंडलीय समितियां सामूहिक उत्तरदायित्व और कार्यपालिका की एकरूपता के सिद्धांत को बहाल करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती हैं। स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Cabinet Committees are extra-Constitutional bodies to reduce the stress and Complexity of work related to cabinet.

* How it reinstates collective responsibility and principles of homogenity of Executive:-

(i) Decisions taken by Cabinet Committees are based on deliberation and focus on collective responsibility.

(ii) It reduces the workload on Cabinet due to crunch of time.

(iii) Deliberations are important part of Committee thus assuring the idea of collective responsibility.

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(iv) Decisions taken by Cabinet Committee are as a whole thus promoting homogeneity of executive.

Ex:- Decision taken by Appointments Committee means that it is a collective decision.

Cabinet Committees have proved to be a viable idea to further enrich the proponents of Parliamentary system in India.

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4. There is a need to overhaul the public procurement and project management (PPPM) framework of India for faster, efficient and transparent execution of government projects. Comment.

(150 words) 10

सरकारी परियोजनाओं के तीव्र, कुशल और पारदर्शी निष्पादन के लिए भारत के सार्वजनिक खरीद और परियोजना प्रबंधन (PPPM) ढांचे में सुधार की आवश्यकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

According to reports, around 30% of India's GDP is being spent on public procurement and project management. (PPPM)

* Need for overhauling (PPPM:-

(i) Lack of overarching law:- With such huge expenditure, there hasn't been any law made on this.

(ii) Lack of unified procedure:- Different departments like Road and Highways, Railways etc have their own set of practices.

(iii) Inadequacy of L1 method:- L1 method has led to inefficient product, regular delays and hasn't benefited.

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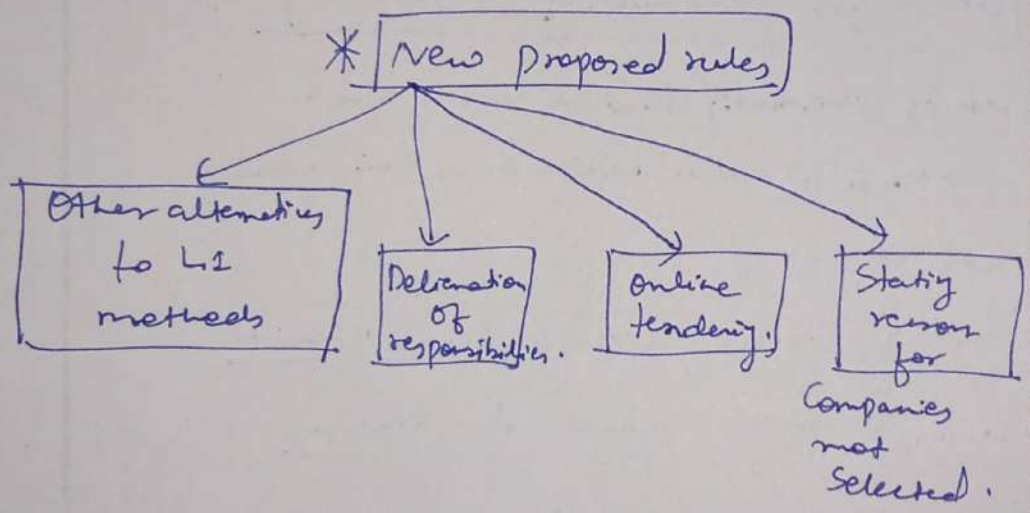
(iv) Unfair Practices :- Cases of Corruption and deliberate delays and other such unfair practices have been witnessed.

(V) Lack of Transparency :- Transparency in the process of selection has been missing.



Procurement procedure needs to be impartial, transparent for better gains. New rules are a Constructive step in this direction.

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5. Adequate measures are required to overcome the challenges and vulnerabilities associated with undertaking social accountability initiatives and institutionalising them. Elaborate. **(150 words) 10**

सामाजिक जवाबदेही पहलों को शुरू करने और उन्हें संस्थागत बनाने से जुड़ी चुनौतियों और कमजोरियों को दूर करने के लिए पर्याप्त उपायों की आवश्यकता है। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Social accountability refers to the accountability of government towards people through various processes.

* Methods of Social accountability

- Participatory budgeting
- Social audit
- Participatory planning
- Local ombudsman.

* Issues with these measures:-

(i) Bureaucratic apathy:- Lack of coordination from bureaucracy for these measures.

(ii) Lack of awareness:- Lack of awareness of among masses about these measures.

(iii) Capacity issues:- Lack of capacity to undertake these complex measures.

(iv) Non-involvement of Civil Society Organisations.

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

* [Measures required to make them Successful:-]

(i) ~~Adequately~~ Acquainting people:- Awareness creation through advertising, Plays etc.

(ii) Involvement of Civil Society in a Constructive manner.

(iii) Model Code of Conduct (MCC):- Model Code for bureaucrats that they need to follow.

(iv) Penalisation:- Provision for penalisation for any inadequacy found in time bound manner.

(v) Availability:- Availability and quality of information in local language is also required.

Persistent efforts towards accountable governance is the best way forward.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

6. In view of the recent Parliamentary Standing Committee report, discuss the issues faced by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) and suggest measures that can be adopted to strengthen it. **(150 words) 10**

एक संसदीय स्थायी समिति की हालिया रिपोर्ट को ध्यान में रखते हुए, राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग (NCST) द्वारा सामना किए जाने वाले मुद्दों की विवेचना कीजिए और इसे मजबूत बनाने के लिए अपनाए जा सकने वाले उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

The recent report of Standing Parliamentary Committee stated that National Commission for Scheduled Caste Tribes (NCST) hasn't submitted report for 4 years.

* Issues faced by NCST:-

(i) Lack of financy:- Finances allotted to NCST have been inadequate to run operations.

(ii) Lack of personnel:- There is lack of trained personnel in NCST to carry out function.

(iii) No decision on reports:- No decisions have been taken on its report.

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(iv) Tabling of its report:- Report of NCST has not been even tabled or discussed in parliament.

* [Measures that can be adopted:-]

(i) Finances:- Adequate finances should be alloted.

(ii) Compulsory discussion:- Compulsory discussion on its report in parliament.

(iii) Regular reports:- Regular reports by NCST should be made mandatory.

(iv) Capacity building:- Capacity building of NCST should be undertaken.

To uphold provision for STs and implement decision of U.N. Declaration Committee, NCST should function properly.

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7. While the Mid-Day Meal scheme was aimed at fulfilling the nutritional needs of students, it is far behind in achieving this objective. Discuss. Also, suggest remedial measures in this context. **(150 words) 10**

यद्यपि मध्याह्न भोजन योजना का उद्देश्य छात्रों की पोषण संबंधी आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करना था, किंतु इस उद्देश्य को प्राप्त करने में यह काफी पीछे है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संदर्भ में उपचारात्मक उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Mid-day meal scheme provides for one healthy cooked meal from Class I to VIII in all government-run schools.

* Issues with mid-day meal:-

(i) Unaddressed Malnutrition :- Accordy to NFHS-5 report, 37.8% children are stunted and 19.7% are wasted.

(ii) Lack of nutritious food :- The food provided under the scheme has been not nutritious enough.

(iii) Quality issues :- Various news reports on poor hygiene has been reported.

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(iv) Corruption :- Corruption under the scheme has also been a major issue.

(v) Underpaid :- The Cooks working under Mid-day Meal are paid around 2,000 in Bihar which is extremely low.

* Remedial measures

(i) Nutritious food :- Addition of Egg, fruits and Millets.

(ii) Quality of food :- better quality of food.

(iii) Reduce leakage :- Reduction in Corruption by adopting technology.

(iv) DBT :- use of DBT for external food as well.

Only when proper nutrition is provided, we can expect a prosperous India.

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

8. Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) remain critical for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this context, discuss the impediments in the fulfilment of SRHR in India. Also, mention the steps that can be taken in this regard. **(150 words) 10**

सतत विकास लक्ष्यों (SDGs) की प्राप्ति के लिए यौन एवं प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य और अधिकार (SRHR) महत्वपूर्ण हैं। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में SRHR की प्राप्ति में आने वाली बाधाओं पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में उठाए जा सकने वाले कदमों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

SDG goal number 5 vouches for gender equality. Out of which sexual and reproductive health rights are most important.

Sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) rights refers to the right to women over the choices related to sex and reproduction like family planning and Vasectomy.

* Impediments to fulfilment of SRHR in India:-

(i) Patriarchal Society:- It leads to men taking such decisions that women should take.

(ii) Low Economic independence:- Lack of economic independence impedes the functioning of SRHR. According to Niti Aayog, only 23.7% women are in labour force.

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(iii) No proper law:- Lack of any adequate law on SRHR due to poor representation of women in politics.

(iv) Lack of Awareness:- There has been lack of awareness among women themselves.

(v) Cultural Stereotypes:- Cultural norms also hinders the functioning of SRHR.

* Steps that can be taken:-

- Awareness generation
- Increasing women's participation rate to 50%
- Corrected advertisement
- Encourage use of contraceptives.
- Breaking religious taboos

India would be a perfect society if it allows its women to use SRHR and will also help to achieve SDGs goal no.5.

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

9. State the functions of the United Nations Human Rights Council. Also, discuss the issues faced by the Council in the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. **(150 words) 10**

संयुक्त राष्ट्र मानवाधिकार परिषद के कार्यों का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, विश्व भर में मानवाधिकारों को बढ़ावा देने और उनके संरक्षण में परिषद द्वारा सामना किए जाने वाले मुद्दों की विवेचना कीजिए।

UNHRC has been constituted to oversee the functioning of human rights throughout the world.

* Functions

- To make provision for independent experts to evaluate Human Right Report.
- To oversee the Human Rights report of countries.
- To pass non-binding resolution on Human Rights.

Ex:- Recently, it passed right to healthy and clean environment as a human right.

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* Issues faced by Council:

(i) State dominated:- The reports prepared are by states and there is no independent mechanism.

(ii) Driven by geopolitics:- Selection of UNHRC members (47 in total) are based on geopolitics rather than on Human Rights.

(iii) Non-binding:- The resolutions taken are non-binding in nature.

(iv) Lack of transparency:- Transparency on why a country was chosen is lacking.

(v) Many human rights violating countries are also part of UNHRC.

To strengthen Human Rights Regime, strengthening UNHRC with adequate powers is essential.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

10. West Asia is an important strategic region for India with profound geo-political and geo-economic significance. Discuss. (150 words) 10
अत्यधिक भू-राजनीतिक और भू-आर्थिक महत्व के कारण पश्चिम एशिया भारत के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण रणनीतिक क्षेत्र है। चर्चा कीजिए।

West Asia refers to the Arab world with countries like Israel and UAE in it.

* Significance of West Asia

(i) Economic:- UAE is India's 3rd largest trade partner with $57 billion trade while Israel also has great trade relation. (India has a positive balance of trade with Israel).

(ii) Strategic:- UAE and Israel have formed I2U2 with USA and can help India to take advantage.

(iii) Stability:- Stability in West Asia would ensure that issues like radicalism and terrorism are minimized.

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(iv) Defence :- India could use modern technology by the Assistance of Israel.

(v) Technology :- UAE has announced to set up $100 bn food parks in India. Commitments of green tech and technology has also been done.

(vi) Diaspora :- India is largest contributor to UAE's diaspora while 85,000 Jews live in India.

* Way forward

- Building partnerships
- Concluding FTAs
- Regional stability
- Deepening ties.

West Asia and India's collaboration could help India to gain economically, strategically as well as technologically.

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11. Disenfranchising prisoners desecrates a cherished value in a democracy i.e. 'right to vote', which should be guarded earnestly. Discuss in the light of The Representation of The People Act, 1951. **(250 words) 15**

कैदियों को मताधिकार से वंचित करना वस्तुतः लोकतंत्र के एक प्रशंसनीय मूल्य, अर्थात् "मतदान के अधिकार" का अपमान करना है, जिसकी गंभीरतापूर्वक रक्षा की जानी चाहिए। लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए।

The idea of "political democracy" stands on the lynch pin of right of vote and to contest elections. It should be the most sacrosanct principle in a democratic country.

* Why should "right to vote" be guarded for prisoners?

(i) For Political Democracy :- Right to vote is the most fundamental value of any democracy and given to everybody.

(ii) For equality :- Article 324 stipulates that people can't be debarred from participating on basis of religion, race etc. for equality.

(iii) For their right :- Every individual participating in law and procedure adheres to the state. In respect, he should be given his right.

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(iv) For human Rights :- The Covenant on Civil and political rights stipulates the right to vote as a part of human rights.

(v) Fairness :- More than 50% prisoners are under-trial i.e. they haven't been proven guilty yet. To be fair to them, voting rights should be given to them.

* Rationale behind descreting voting rights of Prisoner in Representation to People Act, 1951 :-

(i) Violation of law :- Prisoners have violated the law which is the command of Sovereign. It shows their disobedience to democracy.

(ii) Grave crimes :- Commiting grave crime and expecting them to take enlightened decision is a paradox.

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(iii) Operational issues :- Providing right to vote would lead to operational challenges to implement.

"Right to vote" is a basic tenet of a democracy. Provisions of postal ballot or other flexible procedure should be introduced and RPA should be amended to provide prisoners their rights.

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12. There are similarities and interactions between the affirmative action adopted by India and USA owing to similar historical injustices faced by their respective vulnerable groups. Discuss. (250 words) 15

भारत और यू. एस. ए. के सुभेद्य समूहों द्वारा सामना किए गए एकसमान ऐतिहासिक अन्याय के कारण, इनके द्वारा अपनाई गई सकारात्मक कार्रवाई के बीच समानताएं हैं और इनका एक-दूसरे पर प्रभाव पड़ा है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Affirmative action refers to the preferential treatment for certain groups owing to historical injustice. Different models have been adopted throughout the world.

* Similarities and interactions between Indian and USA affirmative action:-

(i) Historical Injustice:- The blacks/Indians/natives in USA and the Shudras/untouchables in India both have a long history of social, economic and political discrimination.

(ii) Rationale behind Affirmative action:- The rationale behind both the provision have been to provide reservations for those vulnerable sections who have been left behind.

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(iii) Provision under Affirmative action:-
India provides for reservation in jobs as well as admission to educational institutions whereas USA provides for preferential treatment and reserved area for blacks.

(iv) Provisions against discrimination:-
both the countries provide for stringent punishments for disregarding the equal moral worth for all.
For example, Article 17 in Indian Constitution which makes practice of untouchability a crime.

(v) Providing Educational and Cultural Rights:-
Making provisions for better educational and social as well as preservation of culture has also been part.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Affirmative action can be a great tool to achieve the idea of "Social justice". Countries like INDIA and USA have made provisions to achieve that idea. However, in functional term, killing of dalits and discrimination against blacks (George Lloyd being killed by police) do continue. Regular and ~~persis~~ persistent efforts are required to weed out the menace of injustice.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

13. Objections to domicile-based reservation in private sector jobs on the grounds of constitutional equality and freedom are misplaced. Critically discuss. **(250 words) 15**

संवैधानिक समानता और स्वतंत्रता के आधार पर निजी क्षेत्रक की नौकरियों में अधिवास आधारित आरक्षण पर आपत्ति अनुचित है। समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

75%

Recently, Haryana passed a bill to reserve jobs in private sector having salary below 40,000 to locals.

* Arguments in favour of domicile based jobs:-

(i) Right to work:- Directive principles of State Policy provides for State to provide employment and living wage. Such acts are according to such provision.

(ii) Allowed in Constitution:- Article 16 which talks about public employment doesn't debar jobs on basis of domicile. i.e. using domicile as a criteria is allowed (Article 15(1)).

(iii) Skewed Central grants:- The distribution of taxes on recommendations of Finance Commission have been tilted towards weaker states like Bihar and UP.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(iv) Rising Unemployment:- Recent NSO data shows that unemployment rate is 4.7%. To fulfil its duty to provide employment, States should take this step.

* Arguments against such reservation:-

(i) Against Fundamental Rights:- Article 14, 15 and 19 (Right to profession) allows to work and doesn't discriminate on basis of domicile.

(ii) Sons of Soil theory:- Such initiatives would fuel sons of soil theory and would promote regionalism.

(iii) Unease of doing business:- Complying with such provisions would lead to compromising on merit, this could reduce business interest. Ex:- Gurugram is IT hub, it could lose investments.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(iv) Return of Inspector Raj:- Regulation of such laws would lead to return to inspector raj

(v) Not the core issue:- The core issue is unemployment. This distracts from real issues.

* Way forward

- Skill development through PM Kaushal Vikas, DIGISAKSHAM
- Labour intensive sectors
- Reducing regional disparities
- Increase investments.

Domicile based reservation can't be a solution to unemployment crisis. Focusing on skill development, quality education and sustained increased investment is the requirement.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

14. There have been arguments that sedition law is an attack on the very foundation of India's liberal democratic principles, as enshrined in the Constitution. Do you agree? (250 words) 15

ऐसा तर्क दिया जाता है कि राजद्रोह कानून भारत के उदार लोकतांत्रिक सिद्धांतों की नींव पर हमला है, जैसा कि संविधान में निहित हैं। क्या आप सहमत हैं?

Section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code makes provision for Sedition which has been vehemently criticised from various Section of society.

* Rationale behind Sedition Law:-

(i) National Security:- To ensure that anti-national elements are Contained efficiently, Sedition law Can help.

(ii) For Countering Insurgency:- To Counter insurgencies like in Nagaland or Kashmir, Sedition law can be important.

(iii) For efficient action:- In decisions related to national security, efficient decision could be taken through use of Sedition law.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

* Why is it an attack on liberal democratic values?

(i) Against Fundamental Rights:- The basic principles of Right to equality, equality before law (Article 14) and Article 22 are violated.

(ii) Unscrupulous use:- Supreme Court in its Kedar Nath Judgement (1962) argued that no one should be detained under Sedition if his words don't intend to incite violence.

(iii) Against Freedom of Speech:- It goes against Article 19 i.e. freedom to speech and expression.

(iv) Culling dissent:- It has been used to cull dissent which is a foundational principle of a democratic society.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(v) Low Conviction :- Conviction rate of around 2% shows the misuse of law.

Committees like Malimath Committee and J.S. Verma Committee have also recommended to end the sedition law.

Recently, Union home minister has called for revisiting of colonial laws while the Supreme Court has asked for review of sedition law. This shows a positive sign towards ending a colonial and regressive law.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

15. Despite Government e-Marketplace facing certain challenges, it has brought about a significant improvement in the procurement of goods and services by various government agencies. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

गवर्नमेंट ई-मार्केटप्लेस द्वारा कुछ चुनौतियों का सामना करने के बावजूद, इन्होंने विभिन्न सरकारी एजेंसियों द्वारा वस्तुओं और सेवाओं की खरीद में महत्वपूर्ण सुधार किया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Government e-market place has been a online portal where government directly procures from various vendors.

* Improvement brought about by Government e-marketplace:-

(i) Strengthening MSMEs:- Procurement from small and medium enterprise would strengthen their finances.

(ii) Cost-effective:- Government procurement for daily items have become hassle free and cost-effective.

(iii) Efficiency:- Easy process has brought efficiency in procuring and delivery of goods.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(iv) Use of Technology:- Government has itself been an example of how to use technology effectively.

(v) Low rate of return:- The rate (percentage) of return of products have been lower which shows quality and satisfaction.

* Challenges faced by e-marketplace:-

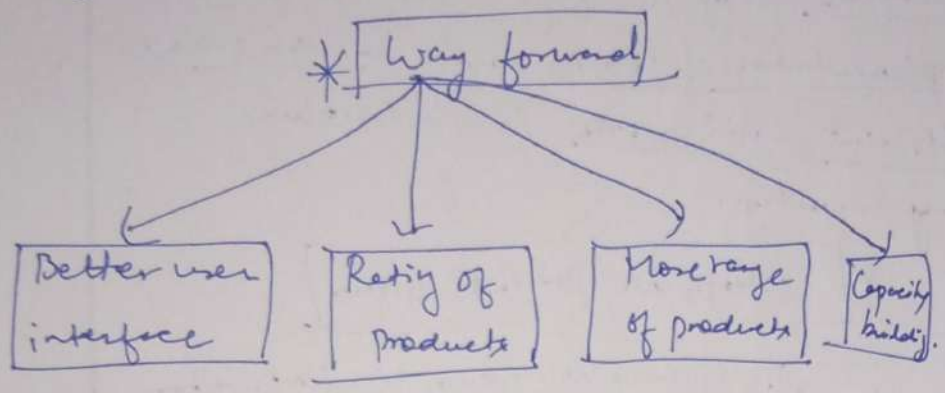
(i) Interface:- Interface of government e-marketplace could be improved for better navigation.

(ii) Quality of products:- There have been questions on the quality of products delivered through govt marketplace.

(iii) Local languages:- It isn't yet available in multiple languages.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(iv) Volume of procurement :- Volume of procurement could be made better by further incentives.



Government e-marketplace has brought gains for all the stakeholders. Consideration to further improvements of marketplace with innovative ideas is the road ahead.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

16. A reformed system of recruitment, training and evaluation needs to be put in place to take forward the development of a highly efficient and accountable civil service. Discuss in the context of India. **(250 words) 15**

अत्यधिक कुशल और जवाबदेह सिविल सेवा के विकास को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए भर्ती, प्रशिक्षण और मूल्यांकन की एक संशोधित प्रणाली लागू करने की आवश्यकता है। भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Civil Services play the very important role of implementation of policies and law and order. An efficient Civil Service is the backbone of any country.

* Challenges in present System

- Recruitment: Generalist exam in times where Specificity is required.
- Training :- • Lack of Regular training. • Inefficient early training.
- Assessment → • No transparent mechanism for assessment. • No procedure.
- Accountability → • No laying off of Staff who haven't Performed amicably.
- Corruption :- • Pervasive nature of Corruption in Indian bureaucracy.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

* Reforms that could be undertaken:-

Recruitment
- 1. Common screening test for all government exam.
- 2. Domain Specific Subjects in exam.
- 3. Psychotrophic and IQ tests as used in USA.

Training
- 1. Regular interval training. (as suggested by 2nd ARC report).
- 2. Better structured training at LBSNAA.

Evaluation
- 1. A fair and regular assessment procedure.
- 2. Voluntary Retirement to those who don't complete requisite requirements. (2nd ARC report).
- 3. Different dimension like probity, integrity, review should be added.

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Corruption → 1. Make RTI strong.
→ 2. Better grievance redressal system.

According to 2nd ARC report, Indian bureaucracy has been able to maintain neutrality and has helped to maintain stability as well.

However with the changing world and addition of new dimension, new and progressive reforms are required for better efficiency and accountability of Indian Civil Services.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

17. Despite initiatives taken by the Indian government to achieve critical goals in the education sector, major interventions are required to tackle learning poverty as well as the persisting inequalities. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में महत्वपूर्ण लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने के लिए भारत सरकार द्वारा आरंभ की गई पहलों के बावजूद, लर्निंग पॉवर्टी (अधिगम निर्धनता) के साथ-साथ विद्यमान असमानताओं से निपटने के लिए बड़े हस्तक्षेपों की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

According to a report published by World Bank, the number of students unable to read a text appropriate to their age has increased from 53% to 70%.

* Initiatives taken by government,
  - → New Education Policy, 2020
  - → Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.
  - → NIPUN bharat initiative.
  - → Khelo Bharat Scheme.

* Challenges in education Sector:-

(i) Low Spending:- Kothari Commission argued for 6% spending of GDP on education, it is still around 3% of GDP.

(ii) Lack of private participation:- Private Sector have an underwhelming presence in education sector.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(iii) Inequality in Society :- According to World Inequality Report, top 10% of India has 57% of National income. This reduces potential of poor to affor education.

(iv) Poor quality :- Education in government schools have been of poor quality.

(v) Lack of Infrastructure :- Apart from buildings or other facilities, UNESCO reports that there are still 1.2 lakh single teacher schools in India.

* Major intervention that are required :-

(i) Increase Spending :- Only with 6% spending of GDP, better resources for infrastructure and teachers could be made.

(ii) Access to technology :- ASER Survey found out 24% students have no access to phone. Providing access to technology like mobiles and Smart Classes is required.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(iii) Assessment of quality :- Learning poverty has been due to low focus on quality. Assessment of schools and its quality is important.

(iv) Providing infrastructure :- Proper infrastructure is pre-requisite for any educational attainment.

(v) Qualified teachers :- Revisiting teacher recruitment methods and their regular training is required for better outcomes.

(vi) Use of Regional language :- It is a fact that students learn quickly in mother tongue. Better quality books in mother tongue can be provided.

CII reports suggest that if properly harnessed, Indian economy could value $9 trillion by 2030. However, with learning poverty such ambition will face a serious dent.

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

18. In light of the burgeoning burden of both communicable and non-communicable diseases, there is a need to revamp the public health surveillance system in India. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

संचारी और गैर-संचारी दोनों प्रकार के रोगों के बढ़ते बोझ के आलोक में, भारत में सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य निगरानी प्रणाली में सुधार की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The Covid-19 Pandemic has shown and reflected upon the vulnerabilities of public Health Surveillance System in India.

* Issues with present System:-

(i) Lack of Infrastructure:- There is lack of Concrete infrastructure like labs for proper surveillance.

(ii) Lack of personnel:- In India, number of doctors is very above (around 1,500/) lakh the prescribed limit of WHO. For surveillence, system is even dire.

(iii) Lack of Coordination:- Coordination between various Stakeholders have been underwhelming in India.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(iv) Inefficient use of AYUSH doctors :- AYUSH doctors haven't been used efficiently for surveillance.

(v) Inadequate Spending :- Spending on healthcare system have been around 1-1.5% of GDP which is lower than other developed countries.

* Initiatives taken by government

- INSACOG :- for genome sequencing. (group of 28 labs).
- National Health Mission :- for adequate infrastructure.
- Ayushman Digital Health Mission :- Development of capability for surveillance
- Ministry of AYUSH was formed in 2014.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

* Way forward

(i) Increase in Spending :- Need to Spend 6% of GDP.

(ii) Better infrastructure :- Building of labs and reporting at correct time.

(iii) Recruitment of adequate amount of Personnel.

(iv) Coordination among all Stakeholders.

Public Health should be a priority for India's government. WHO has already predicted that we can see more Covid-19 like virus. Recently, Monkeypox has also been discovered. Constructive and comprehensive steps in time bound manner is urgent.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. The repercussions of the ongoing economic crisis in Sri Lanka extend beyond its borders. Discuss with specific reference to India. Also, mention the steps that India has taken to assist Sri Lanka tide over the crisis.

(250 words) 15

श्रीलंका में जारी आर्थिक संकट का प्रभाव उसकी सीमाओं से परे भी पड़ रहा है। भारत के विशिष्ट संदर्भ में विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, उन कदमों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए जो भारत ने इस संकट से निपटने में श्रीलंका की सहायता के लिए उठाए हैं।

The Balance of Payment (BoP) crisis leading to Constitutional and economic crisis can have wide repercussions on India.

* ~~Repe~~ [Repercussions on India] :-

(i) Migrants :- There can be an outflow of migrants on the maritime boundary of India.

(ii) Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka :- The economic crisis can also trigger another tamil versus Sinhalese aggression leading to geopolitical tensions for India.

(iii) China's presence :- This could trigger close contact between China and

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Sri Lanka leading to further inroads near the territory of India.

(iv) India's economic loss:- India had a trade surplus and highest trade with Sri Lanka in South Asia. It would lead to decline in exports.

(v) India's investment:- Investments made by Reliance, ONGC in Sri Lanka could face a setback.

* Repercussion for the world:-

(i) IMF:- Question on the working of IMF and its inability to handle crises would stir once again

(ii) Instability in South Asia.

(iii) Economic turmoil:- The Ukraine Russia war and then Sri Lankan crisis has led to further economic turmoil.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

* **Steps taken by India**
  - $2 billion line of credit.
  - Exporting oil and necessary agricultural products.
  - Foreign investments like Trincomalee Farm.
  - Vouching for Sri Lanka on international platform.

* **Way forward**
  - Build strategic treaties
  - Project goodwill of Indians among Sri Lankans
  - Reduce dependence on China.
  - Maintain peace.

India, accordingly to its "Neighbourhood First policy" should definitely help Sri Lanka. But the approach shouldn't be of "Neki kar dariya mel dal" but (do good & forget about it)

"Neki kar or danka baja" (do good and advertise).

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

20. India is a reliable partner in the Indian Ocean Region and can take on the role of being the net security provider in the region. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

भारत हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र में एक विश्वसनीय भागीदार है और इस क्षेत्र में निवल सुरक्षा प्रदाता होने की भूमिका निभा सकता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

With the geopolitical compass shifting towards Indo-pacific, India has the opportunity to become a net security provider.

* Factors that makes it a net security provider:-

(i) Geographic location :- India is centrally placed in Indo-pacific and can play a significant role in providing security.

(ii) India's SAGAR doctrine :- India's Sagar doctrine vouches for a free, open and rule-based Indo-pacific.

(iii) India's international image :- India's international image has been of a law abiding and peaceful countries.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(iv) Naval Exercises:- India conducts several naval exercises like Malabar in Indian Ocean.

(v) Deterrance against China:- India is the only country that has potential to challenge China's aggressive policies in Indian Ocean.

* Issues with India becoming net security provider:-

(i) Economic Cost:- Being a net security provider, India will have to expand military expenditure.

(ii) Confrontation with China:- It will put India in direct contest with China; China with superior navy could take advantage.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(iii) India's reluctance to naval base :- India has shown reluctance to naval base in the recent past.

(iv) India's "Strategic autonomy" :- It hinders India's prospects of forming alliance like AUKUS.

* Way forward

- Building Partnerships with Countries
- Increase Naval Exercises
- Using Countries like USA, & Japan to Counter China
- Vouch for SAGAR at international platforms.

India has an important role to play in Indian ocean. Leveraging its potential by forging alliance and building consensus for free and open Indian Ocean is the way forward.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1840)

Name of Candidate	KUMAR SUSHANT		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	1267594
Center	ONLINE	Date	27/08/2022

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi- 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

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5.

6.

All the Be

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1. While fixed-term employment offers an ingenious way to address specific issues faced by both employers and employees, there are also some concerns associated with it. Discuss in the context of India.

(150 words) 10

हालांकि, नियत अवधि का रोजगार (फिक्स्ड टर्म एम्प्लॉयमेंट) नियोक्ताओं और कर्मचारियों दोनों के द्वारा सामना किए जाने वाले विशिष्ट मुद्दों को हल करने का एक सरल तरीका प्रदान करता है, लेकिन इसके साथ कुछ चिंताएं भी जुड़ी हुई हैं। भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Fixed term employment refers to the employment for a Specified Period of time. Ex:- teachers on Contracts.

* Benefits of fixed term employment :-

For employers
1. Cost effective as Paying other Social Security would be less.
2. Flexibility in choosing Staff as per requirement.
3. Hiring best talent.

For employees
1. Find the best Salary in the market.
2. Explore many places.
3. Flexibility in using time.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

* Concerns associated with it:-

(i) Exploitation:- often employees are underpaid and are required to provide long hours.

(ii) Lack of regulation:- There is no law or mechanism regulating fixed term employment.

(iii) Social Security:- It could hamper individual's economic state in times of diseases or emergency.

(iv) No data:- There is lack of adequate data on the state of fixed term employees.

* Way forward

- Collection of data
- Issuance of guidelines
- Providing Social Security
- Scope for innovation

Proper regulation and adherence to guidelines are required to make fixed employment work.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2. An efficient logistics sector with a focus on warehousing is pivotal to the success of the Bharatmala Pariyojana. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**
वेयरहाउसिंग पर केंद्रित एक कुशल लॉजिस्टिक्स क्षेत्रक भारतमाला परियोजना की सफलता के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Bharatmala Pariyojana focuses on the development of roads and infrastructure throughout the ~~Sect~~ Indian territory.

* Role of logistics and warehousing for Bharatmala Project:-

(i) Reducing Cost:- Effective logistics sector could significantly reduce the cost of transportation.

(ii) Efficiency:- With robust logistics and warehouse system, efficiency would be better and enhanced.

(iii) Connectivity:- Better logistics and warehousing would provide smooth connectivity.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(iv) Economic growth:- Better Logistics is synonymous to ~~bata~~ better economic growth and results.

(v) Development of Community:- Better logistics would increase employment leading to community development.

* Way forward

- Quick development of logistics sector
- Usage of PM-Gati Shakti
- Completion of projects in stipulated time.

Logistics and warehouses can bring multidimensional benefits and also supplement Bharatmala Pariyojana.

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3. What do you understand by the term 'irrigation scheduling'? Bringing out the advantages provided by it, discuss the difficulties faced in applying it on a farm level. **(150 words) 10**

'सिंचाई निर्धारण (इरिगेशन शेड्यूलिंग)' पद से आप क्या समझते हैं? इसके द्वारा उपलब्ध कराये गए लाभों का वर्णन करते हुए, इसे खेत स्तर पर लागू करने के समक्ष आने वाली कठिनाइयों की विवेचना कीजिए।

Irrigation Scheduling refers to the irrigation at particular schedules which enhances water-use efficiency.

* Advantages of Irrigation Scheduling:-

(i) Water-use efficiency:- It reduces the required water in comparison to conventional modes of irrigation like tubewells.

(ii) Productivity:- It also ensures adequate productivity of crops.

(iii) Reduces farmer's labour:- It reduces farmer's efforts and makes it more hassle free.

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(iv) Less Requirement of fertilisers:- Water use efficiency leads to lower consumption of fertiliser.

(v) Preserving groundwater:- The highly depleting water can be preserved.

* Difficulties in application :-

(i) Awareness:- There is lack in awareness among farmers about the usage.

(ii) Complexity:- The process of irrigation scheduling is complex.

(iii) Fragmented landholding:- It makes it difficult to adopt.

Irrigation scheduling could improve agricultural productivity, reduce groundwater exploitation and benefit farmers. Comprehensive steps towards its adoption should be taken.

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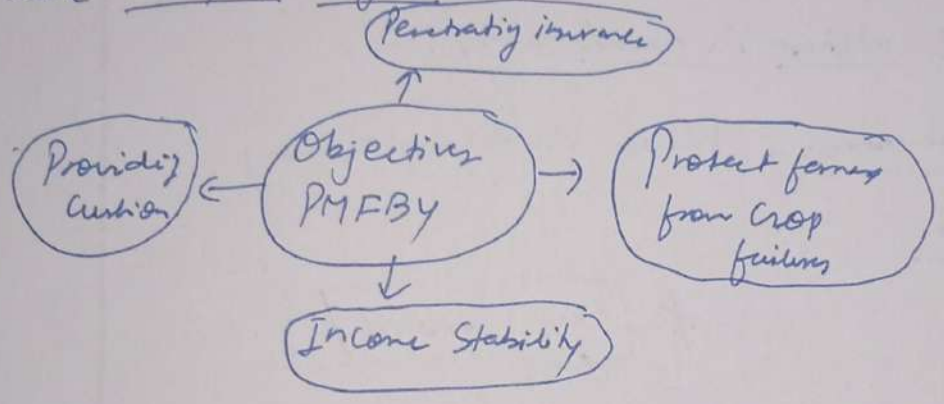
4. While the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana was touted as the largest crop insurance scheme globally in terms of farmer participation, various concerns have arisen since its implementation. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

यद्यपि, प्रधान मंत्री फसल बीमा योजना को किसानों की भागीदारी के संदर्भ में वैश्विक स्तर पर सबसे बड़ी फसल बीमा योजना बताया गया था, तथापि इसके कार्यान्वयन के बाद कई चिंताएं उत्पन्न हुई हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

PM Fasal Bima Yojana was introduced to provide income stability to 140 million farmers of India. However, only 20 million farmers have adopted it yet.



* Concerns regarding implementation :-

(i) Non-implementation by States :- States like Bihar haven't implemented it due to increased cost of premium and fiscal issues of states.

(ii) Delays in farmer's claim :- Due to lack of adequate staff and

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delay in government's reimbursement of subsidies.

(iii) Lack of interest by insurance companies:- Due to low population in states like Nagaland and high risks in states like Maharashtra.

(iv) Lack of infrastructure:- Many insurance companies don't have adequate infrastructure and offices in rural areas.

(v) Awareness:- Poor awareness among farmers.

* Way forward

- Reduction in premium costs.
- Infrastructure and use of technology for setting premium.
- Ranking insurance companies
- Awareness generation

PM Fasal Bima Yojana is important to insulate farmers from climate change effects on productivity. Comprehensive steps are required.

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5. The Stockholm Conference commenced the contemporary "environmental era", which brought a paradigm shift in the environmental governance and set a tone for multi-lateral environmental regime. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**
स्टॉकहोम कॉन्फ्रेंस ने समकालीन "पर्यावरण युग" की शुरुआत की, जो पर्यावरणीय गवर्नेंस में एक आदर्श बदलाव लाया और उसने बहु-आयामी पर्यावरणीय व्यवस्था के लिए एक दिशा प्रदान की। विवेचना कीजिए।

Stockholm Conference was held in 1972. It was the first international Conference concerned with environmental protection.

* Role played by Stockholm Conference :-

(i) Environment Conciousness :- It was the first Conference that brought out the impact of environmental degration and steps that needs to be taken.

(ii) Way for Organization :- The Conference gave way to the formation of UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

(iii) Precedent for future course of action :- It set the precedent for future institution like

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UNFCCC and COPs.

(iv) Sustainable development :- It addressed the issues related to Sustainable development and which later got mentioned Brundtland Report.

(V) Collaboration :- It became the first platform for the Collaboration between Countries for environment Protection.

After 50 years of Stockholm Conference, environment consciousness and organization have developed. However, it is time to realize actual results and achieve net zero targets and cooler earth when we celebrate 100 years of Stockholm Conference.

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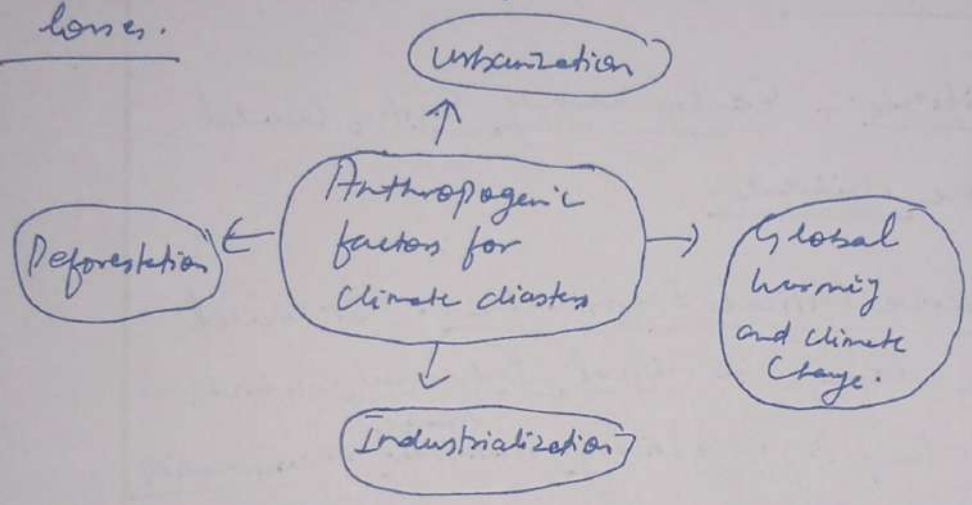
6. The world has witnessed a huge surge in climate-induced disasters, which are largely driven by anthropogenic factors. In this context, analyse the role of early warning systems in mitigating the impact of the disasters.

(150 words) 10

विश्व में जलवायु-प्रेरित आपदाओं में अत्यधिक वृद्धि हुई है, जो बड़े पैमाने पर मानवजनित कारकों से प्रेरित हैं। इस संदर्भ में, आपदाओं के प्रभाव के शमन में पूर्व चेतावनी प्रणालियों की भूमिका का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

According to WMO, world has witnessed 11,000 disasters causing $3.64 trillion losses.



* Role of Early Warning System in mitigating disasters:—

(i) Reduced economic loss:- Early warning system could reduce the economic losses and disruption. For ex, early warning in Amarnath could have stopped the economic loss.

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(ii) Preserve human loss:- Early warning can help to issue warnings at right time and reduce loss of lives.

(iii) Better disaster governance:- It could help to early deployment of NDRF and fast relocation.

(iv) Resilience:- Early warning system could improve resilience.

(v) Preserve Critical Infrastructure:- It could reduce damage to critical Infrastructure which could help to effectively ~~mitigate~~ manage reconstruction and redevelopment.

Early warning system could help to achieve the Seven Seven goals like reducing mortality and economic loss under Sendai Framework signed by India.

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7. Critically examine the implications of leveraging technology in policing. **(150 words) 10**

पुलिस व्यवस्था (पुलिसिंग) में प्रौद्योगिकी का लाभ उठाने के निहितार्थों का समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

Technology can have an important impact on the way policing is exercised.

* Benefits of technology:-

(i) Reduced Crime:- Better use of technology like face recognition could create deterrence and reduce crime.

(ii) Efficiency:- It could help to quickly monitor the case and identify the criminals.

(iii) Better Connect with people:- Provisions like e-FIR and e-tracking could help to build better connect.

(iv) To mitigate emerging tech:- To counter emerging threats like crypto crimes, technology would be of great use.

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(v) Resource efficiency:- Could bring resource efficiency.

* Issues with use of technology :-

(i) Bias:- If more number of dalits are in certain category, technology could create a bias.

(ii) Accuracy:- It has been argued that technology like facial recognition has only 70% ~~to~~ accuracy.

(iii) Privacy:- Excessive use of technology could infringe individuals privacy and violates Article 21.

(iv) Lack of law:- Due to lack of personal data protection law, misuse of data is a possible threat.

(v) Economic cost:- Adoption of technology requires huge investment.

Ethical use of technology and adequate law can be a boon for policing in India.

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8. How far do you agree with the view that climate change poses a threat to international peace and security? **(150 words) 10**

आप इस विचार से कहाँ तक सहमत हैं कि जलवायु परिवर्तन अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शांति और सुरक्षा के लिए खतरा है?

Recently, a proposal was initiated in UNSC to consider Climate Change as a part of threat to international security.

* Climate Change as a threat:-

(i) Creating tensions:- It has been argued that Climate Change induced tension would lead to conflicts.

(ii) Geopolitics:- Issues over scarce resources could bring geopolitics which could threaten security.

(iii) Food Security:- Climate Change induced food security issues could bring instability.

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* [Climate change not as a threat:-]

(i) ~~Not~~ It has been argued that there are platform like UNFCCC which specifically deals with climate change. Bringing it in UNSC would bring multiplicity.

Further, Climate change mayn't be as extreme a problem like terrorism or nuclear weapon. It can be mitigated at other platform.

It is true that climate change is a threat to security but it isn't at that stage to be implemented at UNSC. ~~Iteto~~ Including security dimension in UNFCCC is a better option.

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9. What do you understand by a virtual private network (VPN)? Highlight its advantages and discuss the concerns posed by it. **(150 words) 10**
वर्चुअल प्राइवेट नेटवर्क (VPN) से आप क्या समझते हैं? इसके लाभों पर प्रकाश डालिए और इससे उत्पन्न चिंताओं पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Virtual Private Network (VPN) refers to encrypted messaging for safe and secure flow of information.

* Advantages of VPN:-

(i) Anonymity:- It maintains ambiguity about the transaction and data thus adhering to security.

(ii) Safer:- The user's data is safe as it couldn't be manipulated by hackers.

(iii) For Confidential matters:- It could be used for confidential matters related to important issues.

(iv) Reduces threat:- It reduces threat

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of hacking.

* Concerns associated with it:-

(i) Data Breach:- There has been cases ~~with~~ where the 3rd party has been given data by VPN networks.

(ii) Money laundering:- Money laundering cases are shielded and difficult to trace due to presence of VPNs.

(iii) Digital Sovereignty:- It goes against government's supreme control of its citizen's data.

(iv) Against business:- It is against nation-based services provided by platforms like Netflix.

Government's decision for storage of information by VPNs is a good step towards making accountability.

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10. The discovery of the Higgs Boson at the Large Hadron Collider in CERN completed 10 years recently. In this context, discuss the role played by CERN in overall scientific development. **(150 words) 10**

सर्न (CERN) स्थित लार्ज हैड्रॉन कोलाइडर में हिग्स बोसोन की खोज को हाल ही में 10 वर्ष पूरे हो गए हैं। इस संदर्भ में, समग्र वैज्ञानिक विकास में सर्न द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Higgs boson's discovery has brought about significant changes in science's history.

* Role played by CERN :-

(i) Development of scientific literature :- CERN has developed the scientific literature and discoveries over the years.

(ii) Cooperation :- CERN has lead to the cooperation among various nations about scientific collaboration

(iii) R&D :- CERN has led to extensive reserach and development in the field of developmet of LHC.

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(iv) Innovation :- CERN has led to many to innovation and fosters the idea of innovation.

(v) Observation :- CERN has contributed immensely to scientific observation as well.

India, being an observer member, can utilise the expertise and research for its own development.

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11. Highlighting the factors that affect the cropping pattern in India, discuss the need for modifying it in the context of the emerging agro-ecological concerns. (250 words) 15

भारत में फसल पद्धति को प्रभावित करने वाले कारकों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उभरती कृषि-पारिस्थितिकी चिंताओं के संदर्भ में इसे संशोधित करने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

The wheat-paddy cycle dominated Indian agriculture has led to multi-dimensional issues of groundwater exploitation and poor soil health.

* Factors that affect cropping pattern in India:-

(i) Infrastructure:- Avaliability of market, seeds and fertilisers determine which crops can be efficiently grown.

(ii) Irrigation:- If irrigation is avaliable like in Punjab, farmers will prefer crops like Rice, if it is absent they would prefer dryland crops like gram.

(iii) Government policy:- The procurement policy is shifted towards rice and wheat, this leads to production of 82%

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of cereals among food crops.

(iv) Landholding :- Lower landholding in India leads to the choice of food crops rather than commercial crops.

(v) Capital :- Capital required for commercial crops is high, due to poor capital, farmers opt for rice or wheat.

* Need for modifying the existing cropping pattern :-

(i) Economic :- Due to lack of proper remuneration, farmers income hasn't increased due to wheat-paddy cultivation. Agriculture's share towards India's GDP is also lurking at 18% [Economic Survey 2021-22].

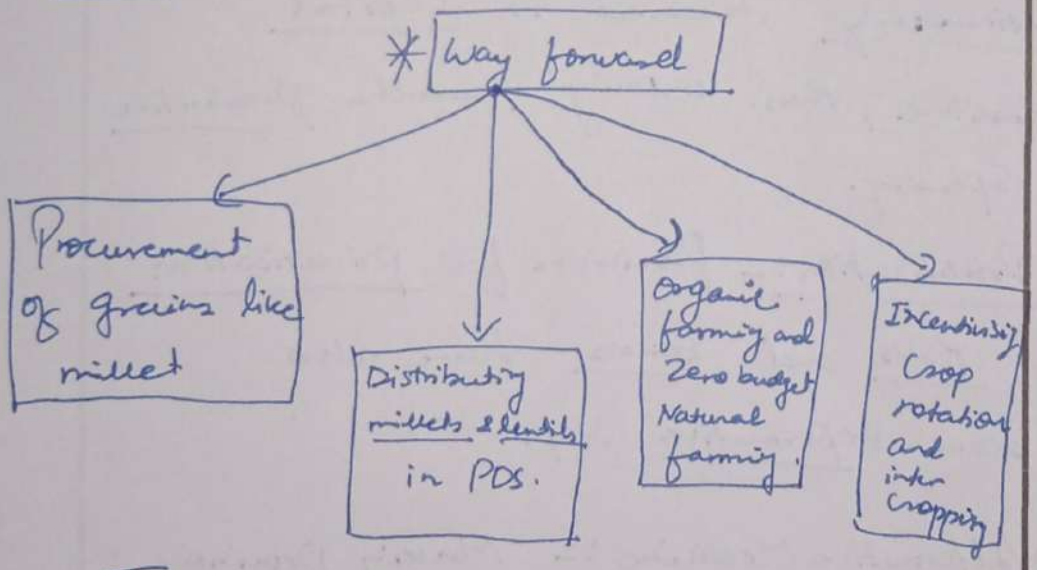
(ii) Environmental :- The existing system has led to issues like groundwater exploitation and soil degradation.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

It could create environmental hazards.

(iii) Social :- Without flourishing income from agriculture, there would be rapid urbanization and migration. This could lead to feminization of agriculture.

(iv) Food Security :- The productivity levels of Indian crops are lower than developed countries, with climate change effects, food security could become an issue.



To achieve the goal of $5 trillion economy and SDG goal 1 & 2 (Poverty and hunger), changing India's cropping pattern is a must.

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12. While the budgetary reforms undertaken by the Central government in recent years have led to better management of government expenditure, there are some issues that still need redressal. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

जहाँ हाल के वर्षों में, केंद्र सरकार द्वारा किए गए बजटीय सुधारों के कारण सरकारी व्यय का बेहतर प्रबंधन संभव हुआ है, वहीं कुछ ऐसे भी मुद्दे विद्यमान हैं जिनका समाधान किया जाना अभी बाकी है। विवेचना कीजिए।

With Capital expenditure higher by 27% in budget 2022-23 in comparison to 2019-20, government is moving in constructive direction.

* Budgetary reforms taken by government in recent years :-

(i) Capital Expenditure :- Government has continuously increased it Capital expenditure, thus moving towards productive spending.

(ii) Privatisation :- Provisions for privatisation of PSUs and banks have also been reformative steps.

(iii) Alternative Medicine :- Making provision for AYUSH ministry to make alternative medicine viable.

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(iv) Technology adoption :- Initiatives like Core banking solution for Post office and others it have led to efficient technology adoption.

(V) Monetisation :- Monetisation of assets through National Infrastructure Pipeline has also been a productive step.

(vi) Infrastructure :- Initiatives like PM Gati Shakti have taken a target for efficient Infrastructure.

* Issues that require measures :-

(i) Education :- With extensive provisions of NEP, 2020, spending upto 6% of GDP is a must. Currently, it is around 3%.

(ii) Health :- Spending on health infrastructure has been meagre. It is only around 1-1.5% of GDP which is very low.

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(iii) Environment:- Adequate attention to ecological concerns and its mitigation has been missing. For example, no mention of mitigating heat waves.

(iv) Cybersecurity:- India has been vulnerable to cybersecurity. Adequate provision regarding safeguarding cybersecurity has been missing.

(v) Employment:- With unemployment rate of 4.7%, emphasis on eradicating unemployment has been missing.

(vi) Gender Budgeting:- Provision for women oriented budgeting remains below par and underwhelming.

Government has taken constructive steps in recent years. However, further steps in direction towards equitable and inclusive growth is the need of the hour.

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13. For India to create a 'future ready' railway system, it must harness innovation and resource efficiency. Discuss the statement in the context of the measures enlisted in the National Rail Plan 2030. **(250 words) 15**

भारत को 'फ्यूचर रेडी' रेलवे प्रणाली के सृजन हेतु, नवाचार और संसाधन दक्षता का उपयोग करना चाहिए। राष्ट्रीय रेल योजना 2030 में सूचीबद्ध उपायों के संदर्भ में इस कथन की विवेचना कीजिए।

Railways is the backbone of India's transport sector whose potential has been underutilised.

* Issues with India's Railway System:-

(i) Human Resources:- Indian Railways is one of the largest recruiters in India. Due to large size of human resources, its Output ratio is 98.4% (CAG).

(ii) Modernization:- Due to high Output ratio, measures for modernization like dedicated freight corridor have been missing.

(iii) ~~Share in~~ Safety:- Adequate Safety measures have also been missing.

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(iv) Working in Silos:- The department of Railways lack Synergy between them and work in Silos.

* Role of efficiency and innovation :-

(i) Share in logistics Sector:- National Rail plan envisages Share of 40% in logistics for railways. This would require innovation.

(ii) Reduce Expenditure :- With proper resource efficiency, railways can reduce its Output ratio significantly.

(iii) Use of Technology :- Innovative measures like Kawach for Safety and use of technology could revolutionise Railways.

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(iv) Public private partnership :- Involvement of private sector for Innovation could be effective.

(v) Eco-friendly :- Future railways needs to be Eco-friendly. Innovative measures like electrification can help.

In comparison to other modes of transport, railways is cost-effective, eco-friendly and convenient. Adequate measures like National Rail plan and implementation of recommendations of Bibek Debroy Committee and Sam Pitroda Committee can make Indian Railways a carrier of India's growth.

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14. Discuss the significance of technology in the Indian agricultural sector. Also, state the challenges in realising its potential to improve agricultural efficiency and increase the income of the farmers. **(250 words) 15**

भारतीय कृषि क्षेत्रक में प्रौद्योगिकी के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, कृषि दक्षता में सुधार और किसानों की आय बढ़ाने की इसकी क्षमता का उपयोग करने में आने वाली चुनौतियों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

Use of disruptive technologies like IOTs and AI can significantly change the landscape of India's agriculture.

* Significance of technology in India's agriculture Sector:-

(i) Increased productivity:- Use of genetically modified (GM) crops, could make agriculture climate resilient and increase productivity.

(ii) Food Security:- Proper usage of technology like drones could reduce wastage and ensure food security.

(iii) Increase farmer's income:- With lower wastage and increased productivity, farmer's income is bound to increase.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(iv) Reducing farmer's labour :- It is contemplated that use of agriculture could ~~increase~~ reduce labour by 25-30%.

(v) Environmental benefits :- Better resource efficiency would mean lower use of fertilisers, leading to lower GHG emission. (Currently, Agriculture contributes to 14% of GHG emission).

* Challenges in realising its potential :-

(i) High cost :- Adoption of technology like drones is expensive. This would be difficult for farmers to adopt.

(ii) Lack of Agri-tech ecosystem :- Due to small landholding (0.9 hectare), development of agri-tech startup ecosystem has been slow.

(iii) Reluctance from farmers :- Due to the new nature of technology, farmers would be sceptical.

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(iv) Digital Divide :- Availability of smart phones in rural areas and its use has been lower than urban areas.

(v) Poor R&D :- Research and development in this sector has been underwhelming. According to Niti Aayog 3 year action agenda, India spends only 0.7% of GDP on R&D.

* Way forward

- Incentivising Agri-tech Startups by schemes like PLI.
- Creating awareness among farmers through Kisan Call Centres.
- Use of SHGs and Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) to procure modern technology.
- Increasing R&D

Technology is a driver in nation's growth. Adoption of technology is important to tackle climate change effects and double farmer's income.

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15. Despite the digital transformation in the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India, several challenges still remain. Elaborate. Also, suggest measures to address them. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (PDS) में डिजिटल रूपांतरण के बावजूद, अभी भी अनेक चुनौतियां विद्यमान हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही, इनके समाधान हेतु उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Public Distribution System (PDS) refers to the Chain of System which provides cost-efficient grains and food to poor households.

* Initiatives for digital transformation
  - → One Nation One Ration Card
  - → e-PoS machine
  - → Technology adoption

* Challenges in Public Distribution System :-

(i) Procurement :- FCI is still procuring rice and wheat for PDS which hasn't been able to tackle malnutrition. According to NFHS-5 report, 35.8% children are still stunted. (low height for age).

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(ii) Leakage:- Issues of Corruption and Selling of products in open market has been prevalent.

(iii) Coverage:- According to Shanta Kumar Committee, National Food Security Act, 2013 Covers 67% of population which puts extra burden.

(iv) Increased Costs:- With rising MSPs and filled godowns, Costs of procuring has been increasing causing financial loss.

(v) Infrastructure:- Infrastructure for Storing like warehouses has been less.

* Measures to address loopholes:-

(i) Procurement:- Procuring cereals like bajra and millets is required.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(ii) Coverage :- Targeting people who really need food by using data from Socio-economic Census (SECC), 2011.

(iii) Tracking of food grains :- Use of GPS to track the truck carrying grains to avoid leakage.

(iv) Infrastructure :- Involvement of private sector and PPP approach should be adopted.

(v) Resource efficiency :- Reducing wastage and usage of technology.

PDS is important to achieve SDG goal no. 1 (No hunger) and fulfil India's duty as "welfare state". Adopting measures suggested by Shanta Kumar Committee and Ashok Dalwai Committee is the way forward.

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16. Discuss the various concerns that exist with regard to fuel efficiency regulations for vehicles in India. Also, suggest the measures that can be taken in this regard. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में वाहनों के लिए ईंधन दक्षता विनियमों के संबंध में विद्यमान विभिन्न चिंताओं पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संदर्भ में किए जा सकने वाले उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

Fuel Efficiency is important to reduce India's import bills and achieve the Panchamrita target of COP-26.

* Concerns that exist with regard to fuel efficiency regulations:-

(i) Outdated technology:- Technology required for fuel efficiency has outdated technology.

(ii) Scrappage policy:- The Scrappage policy allows ~~to~~ even personal vehicles beyond 10 years of use, which has a potential to harm the environment.

(iii) No time bound targets:- Time bound targets to adopt provisions have been missing.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(iv) Slow adoption :- Adoption of provisions has been slow and inefficient in India.

(v) Regulation :- Regulating the fuel efficiency norms have been underutilising.

* Measures that can be taken regarding fuel efficiency measures :-

(i) Time bound targets :- targets can be made time bound.

(ii) Collection of Data :- Collection of data on the pace of adoption is require.

(iii) Regulation :- Adequate use of technology and manpower for proper regulation of the norm.

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(iv) A National body :- A national body could be constituted to report on the progress.

(v) Awareness :- Awareness generation among general public about the role that can be played by fuel efficiency.

Fuel efficiency in vehicles have multidimensional benefits like reduction in GHG emission and reduction in air pollution. Proper provision and its adoption should be undertaken efficiently.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

17. Urban fire is becoming a serious cause of concern in Indian cities. In this context, highlight the major causes behind urban fires in India. What steps can be taken to build robust fire resilience in Indian cities? **(250 words) 15**

शहरी आग (अर्बन फायर) भारतीय शहरों में चिंता का एक गंभीर कारण बनती जा रही है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में शहरी आग के प्रमुख कारणों पर प्रकाश डालिए। भारतीय शहरों में मजबूत अग्नि रोधी क्षमता के निर्माण हेतु क्या कदम उठाए जा सकते हैं?

According to the data produced by NCRB, in recent few years, many ten 9,000 cases of urban fires have been reported.

* Causes behind urban fires in India's cities:-

(i) Unplanned Urbanisation:- Due to unplanned growth of urban centres, there is congestion of electric wires causing danger of urban fire.

(ii) Lack of adherence to regulations:- Regulation provided by urban local bodies aren't adhered to by the institution.

(iii) Poor quality of wires:- Many short circuit have been attributed to low quality usage of wires.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(iv) Human Error :- Many incidents are caused due to the negligence of human causing urban fire.

(v) Regular Monitoring :- Lack of regular monitoring checking the adequate standards has also been a reason.

* Steps that can be taken for robust fire resilience :-

(i) Delineating regulations :- Every local body should delineate proper regulation and safeguard measures that could be taken.

(ii) Proper monitoring :- Regular monitoring of standards by authorities to reduce the risk of fire.

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(iii) Adoption of Technology:- Use of technology like IoTs to reduce the scope of human error.

(iv) Proper Infrastructure:- The transformers and connected wires should be rationalized in efficient manner.

(v) Adequate Safety measures:- Presence of fire alarm and extinguishing mafoam etc. should be made mandatory.

Urban fires cause massive damage to economy, human health and lives. Mitigation through appropriate measures is important to achieve SDG goal number 11 (Sustainable Cities).

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18. Drones in border areas present a serious threat for border management in India. Elaborate. Also, discuss the different measures taken to regulate the use of drones in India. **(250 words) 15**

सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में ड्रोन, भारत में सीमा प्रबंधन के समक्ष एक गंभीर खतरा उत्पन्न करते हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में ड्रोन के उपयोग को विनियमित करने के लिए किए गए विभिन्न उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Recently, drones were used to carry out explosives from Pakistan border to India.

* Threat Cause by drones in border areas:-

(i) Smuggling of arms:- Drones can be used to smuggle arms to India causing security threats.

(ii) Tracking of borders:- With lack of technology to track drones, adversaries can use drones to track borders and launch attack.

(iii) Drug trafficking:- Pakistan is part of "global crescent" for drug trafficking.

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Drones could increase the flow of drugs.

(iv) Plan attacks:- Drones can be used to launch attacks on Security forces.

(v) Anonymity:- With unmanned vehicle, it will remain difficult to find out the owner.

* Measures taken to Regulate drones:-

(i) Drone Rules, 2021:- Ministry of Civil Aviation has declared three zones i.e. red, yellow and green. In Security sensitive areas, "red" zone has been delineated.

(ii) Anti-Drone technology:- Development and deployment of Anti-drone technology has been done at border areas.

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(iii) Categorizing drones :- Drone Rules also categorizes drones accordingly to weight.

* Way forward

- Use of drone by security forces to track borders.
- Awareness among security forces to tackle drones.
- Deployment of anti-drone technology to all border areas.
- Adoption of other technologies like AI and IOTs.

Drones bring a new set of challenges to India's security forces. Proper regulation and its adoption is required.

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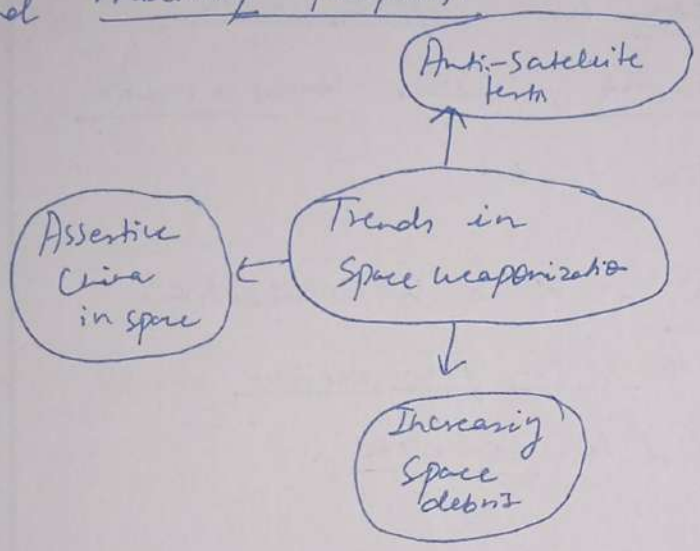
19. Despite a global framework to prevent weaponization of space, it has been increasing in the recent times. Discuss. Also, give an account of the implications of space weaponization. **(250 words) 15**

अंतरिक्ष के शस्त्रीकरण को रोकने के लिए एक वैश्विक ढांचा होने के बावजूद, हाल के दिनों में इसमें वृद्धि हुई है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, अंतरिक्ष के शस्त्रीकरण के निहितार्थों का विवरण दीजिए।

Space weaponization refers to the use of weapons by States for their strategic and military purposes.



Despite a global treaty like Outer Space Treaty, 1959 which calls for peaceful use of space, countries haven't complied with measures and given priority to geopolitics and national interest.

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* Implication of Space weaponization :-

(i) Fear of War :- It will create a fear of war among nation and could reduce interest in space sector.

(ii) Hurting Commercial interest :- Space sector is a rising sector with space tourism growing at high rate, Space weaponization could jeopardize that.

(iii) Space debris :- Space weaponization could lead to more space debris which can lead to collison.

(iv) Space colonization :- If there would be fear of space weaponization, countries like USA could reserve space spectrum with itself and not use it for years.

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(V) Reduced growth:- With TVs, weather forecast dependent on Space services, Space weaponization could reduce growth of economy.

(vi) High Cost:- With threat of increased Space debris, Companies like SpaceX would have to increase Safety measures leading to high cost upto 5-10%.

* Way forward

- A comprehensive policy with consensus.
- Cooperation among nations.
- Adherence to regulations.
- Taboo against Space weaponization by Civil Society.

Space should be used for "peaceful purposes" and "common good" as it has the potential to change quality of human's life.

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20. What do you understand by a bio-economy? Highlight the role that the National Biotechnology Development Strategy 2021-2025 can play in creating a robust bio-economy in India. **(250 words) 15**

बायो-इकोनॉमी (जैव-अर्थव्यवस्था) से आप क्या समझते हैं? भारत में एक मजबूत बायो-इकोनॉमी के सृजन में राष्ट्रीय जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विकास रणनीति 2021-2025 द्वारा निभाई जा सकने वाली भूमिका पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Bio-economy refers to the use of biological products which are organic, eco-friendly and sustainable.

* Benefits of Bio-economy.

- It has the potential to increase growth rate of economy.
- Could reduce GHG emissions and achieve net-zero targets.
- Could make world plastic-free
- Create a circular economy and adherence to 3Rs - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Supplement sustainable development

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* Role that could be played by National Biotechnology Development Strategy 2021-25:-

(i) Increase adoption:- The Strategy could help to increase the adoption of biotechnology related products like GM crops.

(ii) Creating environment:- It could help to foster innovative environment and better Research and development.

(iii) Safety measures:- It would ensure security and safety of products so that no ill-effects are witnessed.

(iv) Awareness:- The strategy could help to develop awareness among masses.

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(V) Development of workforce :- It could encourage development of adequately skilled workforce to make bio-economy a reality.

* Way forward

- Increasing incentive for use of biotechnology.
- Carrying out extensive research and field trials on its safety.
- Advertising the benefits

Bio-economy can be an effective tool to achieve that first prem of being a developed nation by 2047 under "PanchPran" adopted by PM Modi on 76th Independence day.